

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



1.942

A2C732

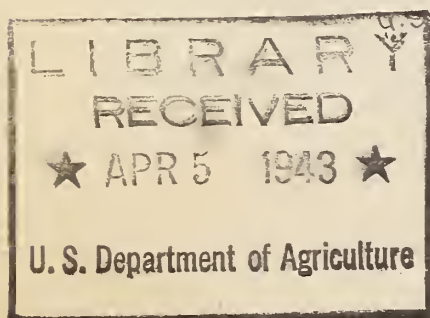
# Community School Lunches

1.942

A2C732



*"You bet I like them"*



AGRICULTURAL MARKETING ADMINISTRATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
September 1942

## THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

*Trainloads of Nourishing Food for  
Millions of Growing Children Mean  
A New Market for Farmers*

Children all over the United States have been learning their A B C's but millions of them have not been getting their A B C's --the valuable vitamins needed for growing bodies. They have not been getting adequate quantities of the nourishing foods they must have if they are to be strong, healthy citizens.

To provide these youngsters with at least one good meal a day is a problem that many far-sighted Americans are helping to solve. The Community School Lunch Program is contributing to the building of better bodies which goes hand in hand with the developing of better minds.

Farmers the country over are producing Food for Freedom--food for our own armed forces, for the United Nations, for people here at home. There must be no let down in this production. But because of the varied demands of war, tight squeezes develop on supplies of some foods, while on others there are overabundances.

What better way to use plentiful foods than to have them whittled down by young appetites. By buying these foods for school lunches, rather than taking a chance on their going to waste, the Agricultural Marketing Administration of the U.S. Department of Agriculture opens broader markets for the farmers' whole production--thereby providing an incentive for farmers to keep right on producing just as much as they can in order that tremendous war requirements may be met.

Last year the Agricultural Marketing Administration's participation in the School Lunch Program grew to such proportions, that more than 6 million children in 93,000 schools were served daily lunches--lunches made up for the most part of 455 million pounds of abundant farm commodities. There are 21 million more children who attend primary and secondary schools in the United States. Many of them also would benefit from a complete lunch at school.



## STARTING A SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

All schools and child welfare centers operated without profit are eligible for participation in the School Lunch Program. These schools are certified locally on the basis of eligible children. All children who attend such schools, or visit child welfare centers, and who are unable to pay the cost of the meals served, or who would benefit nutritionally from the lunches, may be included in the program.

### THE SPONSOR

School authorities, PTA's, State and local nutrition committees, Veterans' organizations and auxiliaries, civic clubs, or other community groups can initiate a program as sponsors.

### AMA FOODS

Foods are allocated to schools on the basis of the number of participating eligible children. Steady supplies of evaporated milk, one or more fresh or dried fruits, wheat cereal, wheat flour, and dry edible beans, enough for all children in the program, are assured by the Agricultural Marketing Administration. Reasonably certain of Nation-wide distribution are one or more additional dairy products, cereal products, potatoes, eggs, as well as a number of processed fruits and vegetables. Other commodities will be available on a temporary or local basis.

### WHAT ABOUT OTHER NEEDED FOODS?

Other foods may be purchased by the sponsor with funds obtained from a small charge collected from children whose parents are able to pay. In many cases the sponsor defrays the cost, or the items are contributed by school patrons.

### EQUIPMENT

The type of lunch is determined by available facilities. Thousands of city and rural schools serve complete hot lunches. Smaller schools can operate less ambitious programs such as a lunch of one hot dish, or confine their activities to serving fruits and fruit juices. In many communities central kitchens prepare hot dishes for all schools in a town or area.

APR 5 1943

## WHO PREPARES THE LUNCHES?

Lunches are prepared under supervision of local sponsors. In many cases WPA, home economics departments, or the Red Cross supplies cooks and other help. Mothers' clubs, PTA, members of sponsor organizations and nutrition committees can arrange for or contribute voluntary assistance. Teachers in many rural schools prepare meals with the assistance of older students.

## WHY A COMMUNITY SCHOOL LUNCH?

In the United States 27 million children from 5 to 16 years attend school. Food plays a vital role in their health. A balanced lunch at noon (1) helps to make up for faulty family dietary habits; (2) takes the place of a good home meal when children live far from schools; (3) supplies some of the food needed when family income is too low to provide the right foods.

## RESULTS

From studies made and reports received from teachers, the results of School Lunch Programs are "extraordinary." They include (1) gain in weight, (2) better attendance, (3) increased mental alertness, (4) better concentration, (5) better eating habits at home, (6) more rapid social and personality development, (7) greater resistance to common colds and other diseases.

Greater than all these is the reward of looking ahead--building sturdy bodies and alert minds today for the future of America.

## WHERE TO APPLY

Information about AMA foods to start a School Lunch Program is available from the County Director of Public Welfare, State Director of Commodity Distribution, Agricultural Marketing Administration representatives, or the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.